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SOURCE Meditsinskiy Rabotnik.PROPERTIES OF THE USSR ANTIBIOTIC ALBOMYCIN

The following information was obtained in a recent interview with Prof. G. F. Gauze, head of the Laboratory of Antibiotics, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR.

Prof Gauze stated that the outstanding properties of albomycin are absence of toxicity and the powerful antibiotic action exerted by it against gram-positive as well as some gram-negative bacteria. Absence of toxicity is a very rare property in an antibiotic; it has been established hitherto only in the case of penicillin. V. A. Shorin, Senior Scientific Associate of the Laboratory of Antibiotics demonstrated that albomycin not only equals penicillin in its action, but also acts on bacteria that are not affected by the latter antibiotic, i. e., penicillin-resistant staphylococci and pneumococci, Friedlaender's bacilli, and others.

Clinical investigations of the therapeutic action of albomycin were carried out under the direction of Prof A. I. Drobrokhotova, Corresponding Member, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR. These investigations showed that albomycin is very effective in the treatment of pneumonias and septic diseases of young children. In acute cases which are not susceptible to treatment with penicillin, albomycin still exerts a beneficial effect. Compared with penicillin, albomycin lowers the mortality from pneumonia among children under the age of one by a factor of 4.2.

In the current year, development of the industrial production of albomycin has advanced considerably; the albomycin which is being released by the industry at present is a highly purified preparation which does not produce any side effects.

In pediatric medicine, albomycin proved to be effective for the treatment of septic diseases of young children, septic complications of dysentery, and pneumonias resulting from measles.

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As the production of albomycin increases, the possibility opens up of testing its therapeutic action in still other diseases, for instance chronic gonorrhea, which is resistant to penicillin and other drugs. Animal experiments showed that albomycin surpasses penicillin in its action on the spirochetes of tick-transmitted relapsing fever. A clinical investigation of albomycin from this standpoint ought to be carried out. In surgery albomycin should be tried in cases of infection of the abdominal cavity with gram-negative bacteria and cocci; upon injection into the peritoneum, albomycin will be effectively resorbed and will then enter into the general circulation system of the organism.

Experimental investigation has shown that albomycin, in addition to its antibacterial action, exhibits a specific stimulating effect on the protective forces of the macroorganism by reinforcing the phagocytary activity of leucocytes. Data obtained by S. D. Yudinsev, Senior Scientific Associate, show that the distribution of albomycin in the organism and its therapeutic action are closely tied up with the physiological condition of the organism as well as with metabolic processes. This is of great interest from the standpoint of I. P. Pavlov's teaching.

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